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Community Choice Energy Alliance

The National Voice for Affordable, Clean, & Reliable Power

2026 FEDERAL POLICY PLATFORM

Community Choice Energy Alliance

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. CCEA Overview 3
II. CCEA Federal Policy Guiding Principles 4
III. CCEA Federal Policy Platform 5
Energy Reliability 5
Priority: Strengthen and Modernize the Electric Grid 5
Priority: Enable the Buildout of Cost-Effective Generation and Energy Storage Developments 5
Priority: Provide Permitting Certainty for Energy Infrastructure 6
Priority: Protect CCA Customers and Ensure Fair, Competitive Markets As Electricity Demand Increases from AI and Data Centers 6
Energy Affordability 6
Priority: Recognize and Promote the Ability of CCAs to Leverage Collective Purchasing Power 6
Priority: Restore Clean Energy Tax Incentives and Safeguard Elective Pay (direct pay) and Transferability Provisions 7
Priority: Maintain Municipal Tax-Exempt Bonding Authority and Restore Advance Refunding of Municipal Bonds 7
Priority: Protect and Increase Federal Funding Investments for CCAs 7
Energy Choice/Local Control 8
Priority: Protect Local Choice and Control for Customers 8
Priority: Improve Competitive Markets 8
Energy Innovation 8
Priority: Deploy New Technologies 8

I. CCEA Overview

CCEA is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the accelerated expansion and competitive success of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs. We represent approximately 28 million residents and businesses across ten states.

As the nation's premier hub for information, networking, data, and education on CCA activities nationwide, CCEA aims to accelerate the country's transition to clean and renewable power, improve resilience, and reduce emissions.

Since 2011, we have advanced community choice aggregation by supporting competition, customer choice, and affordable electricity rates. We provide expert guidance and resources to a network of over 8,000 CCA stakeholders including local, state, and federal governments, non-profits, advocacy groups, and private sector partners.



II. CCEA Federal Policy Guiding Principles

As a general policy, CCEA advances federal policy that strengthens CCA programs and activities as a cornerstone of the nation's energy strategy. By championing energy reliability, affordability, choice, local control, and innovation, CCEA works to align federal programs, funding, and legislative and regulatory policies with community-led solutions—ensuring CCAs can scale their impact, protect customers from rising energy costs, and equitably accelerate the clean energy transition.

Energy Reliability: Support policies that enable CCAs to proactively procure cost-effective generation capacity, invest in local and distributed energy resources, and deploy community-driven innovations that strengthen grid reliability while advancing affordability, resilience, and national clean energy objectives.

Energy Affordability: Expand CCA access to clean and renewable energy solutions that keep costs low, provide long-term savings, and protect customers from rising energy costs. CCAs work to ensure benefits of clean and renewable energy are broadly shared across all customers, including by supporting programs that provide energy bill assistance for low-income households.

Energy Choice & Local Control: Empower CCAs to deliver community-driven energy solutions that reflect local priorities, expand consumer choice, and strengthen market competition.

Energy Innovation: Foster competitive markets and innovative deployment models that accelerate adoption of advanced technologies—including energy storage, demand flexibility, virtual power plants, and electrification and efficiency solutions. CCAs serve as scalable platforms for piloting and deploying next-generation grid solutions.

III. CCEA Federal Policy Platform

CCEA's Federal Policy Committee supports and prioritizes actions and policies as described below. The Platform serves as a guide for federal advocacy, coalition-building, and engagement with policymakers.

Energy Reliability

Priority: Strengthen and Modernize the Electric Grid

- Support federal investments in grid modernization, hardening, and resilience to reduce outages, improve system performance, and withstand extreme weather and climate impacts.
- Support federal policies that help states and communities improve local energy resilience, including disaster recovery and mitigation programs that invest in community microgrids and other clean backup power resources.
- Support early and broad local input and engagement in grid upgrade decisions, prospectively with intervener funding.
- Advance policies and funding that enable the integration of distributed energy resources (DERs), including behind-the-meter and distribution-level resources, including through fair, transparent, and timely interconnection processes.
- Support policies that seek market parity between supply side and demand side resources to ensure cost-effective deployment of resources, whether new generation or utilizing flexible demand such as through virtual power plants (VPPs).
- Encourage full utilization of the nation's advanced metering infrastructure by settling all rate classes based on real-time rather than estimated consumption for capacity (capacity tags and peak load contribution), transmission (e.g. peak load contribution for network integrated transmission services), distribution and energy.
- Promote federal policies that complement and accelerate state and regional transmission planning efforts, including:
    - *Improved coordination across federal agencies.*
    - *Streamlined federal permitting and siting processes for transmission infrastructure.*

Priority: Enable the Buildout of Cost-Effective Generation and Energy Storage Developments

- Support the deployment of cost-effective clean and renewable generation and storage capacity to meet rising electricity demand.
- Support federal policies and funding that incentivize the development of solar, wind, and energy storage at the residential, community, and utility scale.

- Empower local governments and communities to develop and utilize community-scale renewable energy and energy storage projects that enhance reliability, reduce costs, and improve local resilience.

Priority: Provide Permitting Certainty for Energy Infrastructure

- Support a predictable federal permitting framework that enables timely investment in critical energy infrastructure.
- Ensure permitting and environmental review processes apply consistent standards across all energy technologies.
- Oppose policies or regulations that impose disproportionate scrutiny, documentation, or mitigation requirements on clean and renewable energy projects without a clear technical or environmental justification.
- Promote clear timelines, defined agency roles, process modernization improvements, and increased staffing to reduce permitting delays and uncertainty.

Priority: Protect CCA Customers and Ensure Fair, Competitive Markets As Electricity Demand Increases from AI and Data Centers

- Oppose federal action that would expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction over large load interconnection.
- Encourage accurate load forecasting from AI/data center load growth and sharing the expected load growth with CCAs.
- Prevent data centers from directly or indirectly causing cost shifting to existing ratepayers.
- Support federal policies that enable data centers to contract with CCAs for energy and capacity, including flexibility outside the fence-line of their facilities.

Energy Affordability

Priority: Recognize and Promote the Ability of CCAs to Leverage Collective Purchasing Power

- Recognize CCA business model as a competitive, cost-effective mechanism to reduce energy costs for customers.
- Enable CCAs to implement federal programs at the community level.

Priority: Restore Clean Energy Tax Incentives and Safeguard Elective Pay (direct pay) and Transferability Provisions

- Support legislation that would restore clean energy, electric vehicle, and energy efficiency tax credits that were eliminated or phased out in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
- Protect the ability of tax-exempt entities to claim elective pay and transferability of energy tax credits.
- Support clear, workable, and streamlined Treasury regulations to allow tax exempt entities and energy developers to claim energy tax credits.

Priority: Maintain Municipal Tax-Exempt Bonding Authority and Restore Advance Refunding of Municipal Bonds

- Oppose legislation to curtail or diminish the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds.
- Support legislation that would restore the ability to advance refund municipal bonds.

Priority: Protect and Increase Federal Funding Investments for CCAs

- Secure robust funding for DOE programs that support grid modernization, clean and renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and workforce development.
- Clarify and codify that CCAs are eligible applicants for federal funding opportunities, including those that focus on business models or market transformation.
- Preserve and expand existing federal programs that bolster energy affordability and low-income assistance programs, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program.
- Streamline application processes for smaller public entities and joint applications.
- Provide technical assistance to help CCAs navigate federal funding programs.

Energy Choice/Local Control

Priority: Protect Local Choice and Control for Customers

- Support federal policies that strengthen local control measures in CCA-enabled and CCA-emerging states.
- Oppose federal policies that limit broad access to CCAs or infringe upon CCA ratesetting and procurement autonomy.
- Ensure community benefits through open access transmission, market competition, and fair cost allocation.

Priority: Improve Competitive Markets

- Oppose federal actions that favor monopoly structures over competitive market models.
- Support federal policies that promote fair and competitive market rules where supply-side and demand-side resources are valued equally, enabling CCAs to deploy diversified portfolios—including renewables, storage, demand flexibility, and virtual power plants—to meet reliability requirements at the lowest reasonable cost to customers.
- Encourage full utilization of the nation's advanced metering infrastructure by settling all rate classes based on real-time rather than estimated consumption for capacity (capacity tags and peak load contribution), transmission (e.g. peak load contribution for network integrated transmission services), distribution and energy.
- Support utilization of the newly installed advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and ensure CCAs have access to the data and tools needed to use the technology to sculpt load, implement innovative rate and demand response programs, and improve grid reliability as electricity demand grows.
- Protect state rights on energy portfolio content in organized, independently governed regional markets.
- Safeguard the authority of local governments to shape energy choices, ensuring that federal oversight does not encroach upon community-driven priorities or restrict the flexibility of local decision-making.
- Support federal proposals that ensure CCAs have access to accurate, timely, and complete customer electric meter data, billing data, settlement data, and account data from electric utilities.

Energy Innovation

Priority: Deploy New Technologies

- Support federal policies and funding that accelerate the deployment and integration of innovative energy technologies to enhance grid reliability, expand energy storage, reduce emissions, and

lower costs for consumers.

- Support federal funding and policy to rapidly scale the deployment of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs), microgrids, EV charging, and virtual power plants that are capable of shifting demand and modifying customer load.
- Ensure CCAs have equitable access to federal incentives, grants, and financing programs to deploy technologies, reduce emissions, and enhance local grid reliability.